

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer Announces Over \$250,000 in Water Quality Grants

LANSING—Sen. Mark Schauer announced today two Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grants in his district. The City of Jackson will receive \$195,500, and the village of Concord will receive \$34,250, both in conjunction with Michigan's Abandoned Well Management Grant Program.

"I am pleased that Jackson and Concord will receive these grants. We as Michigan residents have a special obligation to protect our water. Our economy and quality of life depend on the presence of clean and safe rivers, streams and lakes. By protecting our groundwater, we are protecting the state's most important natural resource," said Schauer.

DEQ will provide almost \$1 million in grants to help communities safeguard groundwater supplies. Eighteen communities will receive funding to plug abandoned wells. Abandoned wells threaten water supplies in that groundwater contamination can easily occur through an unattended well opening, and that groundwater links to all drinking water wells and surface water.

"These matching funds are integral to a community's ability to close abandoned wells. It is an important but occasionally overwhelming project, especially for a community the size of Concord. It's great that the voters and state government have stepped up to help out with these projects."

In 1998 voters overwhelmingly approved a bond proposal creating The Clean Michigan Initiative, the \$675 million general obligation bond program that funds the Abandoned Well Management Grant Program. Stipulations on the part of the receiving community include 25% in matching funds toward the cost of the projects and identification of the recharge area for the plugged wells. DEQ announced a total of \$955,125 in grants.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.